GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:792
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
KILLING OF ELEPHANTS IN CORBETT NATIONAL PARK
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;SHYAMA SINGH;SUDHA YADAV;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether killing of elephants at the Corbett and Rajaji National Parks are ominous in North India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of elephants died/ killed during the last three years and till date, reserve-wise ;

(d) whether elephants in the Corbett National Park have been recently killed by poachers by feeding them with nails and sharpnails causing slow and painful deaths ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government into the laxity and callousness in the preservation of the animals ;
(g) if so, the details thereof ; and
(h) the action taken by the Government in the matter and further steps proposed for effective prevention of elephants?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) During the period from 27.12.2000 to 10.2.2001, five cases of killing of elephants for the purpose of stealing their tusks have been reported from the Corbett National Park.

(c) As reported by the State Government, the number of elephants which died or were killed during the last three years and till date is as follows :

	Natural Death (Including Accidents)	Killing (Poaching)	Total
Rajaji National Park	31	-	31
Corbett National Park	11	5	16

(d) & (e) Preliminary reports sent by the authorities of the Corbett National Park in respect of the elephant killed on 27.12.2000 suggested the recovery of a sharp edged iron piece from the alimentary canal of the animal. However, the latest reports received from the State Government authorities indicate that sharp metal projectile about 6-7 cm. in length have been used to kill the elephant. The projectile could have been fired either from a gun or a bow.

(f) & (g) A team of senior wildlife officers of Government of India visited the Park on 12-13th February, 2001 to make on the spot assessment of the situation. According to the report of the team, there are large number of vacancies in the Park. Communication network and the mobility of staff needs to be improved. The Park is also passing through a financial crisis because of non transfer of funds from Uttar Pradesh Government. The response of the senior officers of the Park in the initial stages was not up to the desired level.

(h) (1) The Central Government has requested the State Government of Uttranchal Pradesh to take following actions :-

(i) Replace the senior level officers of the Park with more efficient and committed officers.

(ii) Fill up all the vacant posts at field level.

(iii) To ensure regular and intensive patrolling by the field staff and close supervision and monitoring by senior officers.

(iv) To Improve the communication network to enable the field staff to reach the far-flung area of the Park quickly as and when required.

(v) The State Government has also been asked to prepare a contingency plan for which the funds can be made available by the Central Government.

(2) Uttar Pradesh Government has been requested to transfer the funds released by the Central Government for the Park expeditiously to Uttranchal Government.

(3) CBI has also been requested to assist the State Government in investigating the case successfully.